

REMARKS

Applicants submit this Amendment and Request for Continued Examination in reply to the final Office Action mailed March 13, 2006 and Notice of Panel Decision from Pre-Appeal Brief Review mailed July 6, 2006.

As an initial matter, Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of the allowance of pending claims 1-27.

By this Amendment, Applicants propose to amend independent claims 28 and 34. The originally-filed specification, drawings, and claims fully support the subject matter of amended independent claims 28 and 34. No new matter has been introduced.

Claims 1-39 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 10, 19, 28, and 34 are independent claims.

On page 2 of the final Office Action, claims 28-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for allegedly indefiniteness. Applicants have amended claims 28 and 34 as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the Section 112, second paragraph rejections for alleged indefiniteness.

On pages 2-3 of the final Office Action, claims 28-39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 251 as allegedly being an improper recapture of broadened claimed subject matter surrendered in the application for the patent upon which the present reissue is based. Applicants have amended claims 28 and 34 as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the Section 251 rejection for alleged improper recapture.

Applicants further submit that rejected claims 29-33 and 35-39 depend either directly or indirectly from one of independent claims 28 and 34, and are therefore

allowable for at least the same reasons that their respective independent claim is allowable. In addition, each of the dependent claims recite unique combinations that are neither taught nor suggested by the cited references and therefore each is separately patentable.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants submit that this claimed invention, as amended, is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious in view of the prior art references cited against this application. Applicants therefore request the entry of this Amendment, the Examiner's reconsideration and reexamination of the application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

The final Office Action contains characterizations of the claims and the related art with which Applicants do not necessarily agree. Unless expressly noted otherwise, Applicants decline to subscribe to any statement or characterization in the final Office Action.

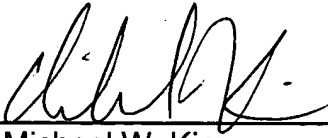
In discussing the specification and claims in this Amendment, it is to be understood that Applicants are in no way intending to limit the scope of the claims to any exemplary embodiments described in the specification or abstract and/or shown in the drawings. Rather, Applicants are entitled to have the claims interpreted broadly, to the maximum extent permitted by statute, regulation, and applicable case law.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this Amendment and
charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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